

like the current Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Governmental Affairs Committee—would also strengthen congressional oversight.

The bottom line is that terrorism is currently our number one threat, and intelligence is our most essential tool to deal with that threat. Before we create a stronger National Intelligence Director, in a position which has too often produced intelligence shaped to promote policy, we must take steps to ensure that a strengthened National Intelligence Director—and indeed our entire Intelligence Community—is free to provide objective, independent intelligence analyses. Our future security depends on it.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

In September 2004, Michael Hughes, a 58-year old man, was arrested after he verbally assaulted a man he believed was gay, then slashed him repeatedly with a small knife. Upon checking his rap sheet, police discovered that Hughes was wanted in Baltimore for the 1974 Christmas Eve killing of another man.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

WEST VIRGINIA'S 2004 ANGELS IN ADOPTION

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a very special family from my home state of West Virginia. I am delighted that Pam and Morgan Lacefield of Moundsville, WV, will be recognized later this month as "Angels in Adoption," a special award created by the Congressional Adoption Caucus.

I would like to take a moment to tell you more about Pam, Morgan, and the entire Lacefield family. Pam and Morgan Lacefield are the proud parents of nine wonderful children. This large, loving bunch is typical of many: they are involved in a host of sports and activities. They do homework. They enjoy family meals together. There is one quality, however, that makes the Lakefield family special: Pam and Morgan have adopted every one of their nine children. It is not surprising that such a loving couple would also run a shelter for homeless animals with no where else to turn.

In 1991, Pam and Morgan were managing a successful group of restaurants that they owned while also raising two

children, whom they had previously adopted. They soon became aware of four siblings who were in need of a loving permanent home and who did not want to face separation. Pam and Morgan adopted them, too, bringing to six the total number of children in their home under the age of five. Later, they adopted another "sibling group" of three children, and they have been on the go ever since!

True leaders in their community, Pam and Morgan have been involved in a number of charitable organizations within West Virginia, and were named West Virginia Parent Teachers' Association's Partners in Education for 1999-2000. And, eleven years after adopting their first sibling group, Pam and Morgan opened a "no-kill" animal shelter, which they named Webark Estates. Their examples of selflessness and commitment have not been lost on the youngest members of their family—each of their children now helps at the shelter in some capacity, and it has become a labor of love for all of the Lacefields. It is a lucky child who can claim over 20 dogs and 80 cats as his pets, and it is a luckier child still who can claim Pam and Morgan Lacefield as parents. As you can see, they are clearly "angels."

The Angels in Adoption Award recognizes individuals like the Lacefields who open their hearts and homes to children in foster care. On September 23, the Lacefields and other Angels will come to Washington in order to be recognized for their good works. The Lacefield family and the other Angel in Adoption nominees from around the country can help inspire everyone to continue efforts to ensure that every child has a safe, healthy, and permanent home and that, for some children, this is only possible through adoption.

I have worked for many years in bipartisan coalitions to promote adoption and improved services for abused and neglected children. While these issues rarely command headlines, they change the lives of children and families across our country. People like the Lacefields and programs like Angels in Adoption remind us of the importance of our adoption and child welfare programs. In 1997, Congress passed the Adoption and Safe Families Act to ensure that a child's health and safety are paramount, and to express the belief that every child deserves a permanent home. Since then, adoptions from foster care have nearly doubled. While this is wonderful news, more than 100,000 children remain in foster care. As the Lacefields and other adoptive parents would tell us, we clearly have more work to do.

Mr. President, I am delighted to have had this opportunity to tell you more about the Lacefield family. I have long believed that the people of West Virginia are its greatest resource; individuals such as the Lacefields prove this point again and again.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN CRISIS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to give praise to a great nonprofit organization, Santa's Children Christmas Village, run by Orien Hodges in Walnut, IA. This organization has been supporting children in crisis for years both by raising money for other nonprofit organizations dedicated to children in crisis and by organizing Santa visits to bring joy to children, helping them escape briefly from the reality of serious illness. Santa's Children Christmas Village has been able to visit over 7,500 children in Iowa as well as neighboring states since the program started in 1998.

Santa's Children Christmas Village is currently expanding its efforts to help underprivileged children by working with a fellow organization, Kids In Distressed Situations, Inc. KIDS's main goal is to prevent the cycle of poverty that is started in childhood from continuing into adulthood. KIDS has been successful in its efforts because of the help it receives from leading retailers, manufacturers, licensors and other charity organizations such as Santa's Children Christmas Village. I am proud of the efforts of my fellow Iowans and the organizations that they are working with in order to better the lives of children in America.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' DEFENSE ACT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following letter be printed in the RECORD. The letter expresses the strong support of the Fraternal Order of Police for S. 2760, the Public Safety Officers' Defense Act.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GRAND LODGE,
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, September 17, 2004.

Hon. JON KYL,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KYL: I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for S. 2760, the "Public Safety Officers' Defense Act," which will restore balance to the criminal justice system by ensuring a reasonable and timely Federal review of State convictions for the murder of a law enforcement officer.

This issue is of particular importance to the F.O.P. because we have, tragically, firsthand knowledge of how such delays affect the families of slain officers. One case in particular always comes to mind—the slaying of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner on 9 December 1981. He was murdered in cold blood by Wesley Cook, who is better known by his alias, Mumia Abu-Jamal. This killer was convicted of murder and sentenced to death by a jury in July 1982. After exhausting nearly all State appeals, and having had two appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court rejected, Faulkner's murderer filed a petition for habeas corpus in October 1999. Just days after marking the twentieth anniversary of Danny Faulkner's death, Judge William Yohn of the United States District Court for